

**Amendments in the Claims:** (struck-through parts deleted and underlined parts added)

1. (currently amended) A hole punching device for selectively punching holes through a paper material, said device comprising:
- an elongate base having a first end, a second end, a first side edge, a second side edge, a top side and a bottom side, a compartment being positioned within said base, said top side having an aperture extending therethrough and into said compartment, said aperture being positioned generally adjacent to said first end, said base having a length from said first end to said second end greater than nine inches;
- an engaging arm being elongated and having rearward end and a forward end, said rearward end being pivotally coupled to said top side of said base and positioned adjacent to said second end such that said engaging arm extends over said aperture;
- a piston extending through and being movably mounted in said engaging arm, said piston including an upper portion extending upwardly from said engaging arm and a lower portion extending downwardly from said engaging arm, said piston being positioned such that said piston may selectively extend through said aperture;
- a first biasing member being coupled to said piston for biasing said lower portion upwardly away from said base;
- a second biasing member being coupled to said engaging arm for biasing said forward end of said engaging arm upwardly away from said base; and
- an actuator for selectively moving said lower portion of said piston downward and into said aperture being attached to said engaging arm, said actuator comprising a lever pivotally coupled to said engaging arm and extending over said upper portion of said piston, said lever having a free end extending generally toward said rearward end of said engaging arm, wherein said lower portion is moved into said aperture when said free end is selectively moved toward an upper surface of the engaging arm.

2. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein a proximate portion of said bottom side with respect to said first end defines a door for selectively opening or closing said compartment.

3. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said engaging arm has a cavity therein positioned between said rearward and forward ends, a covering being selectively positioned over said cavity for opening or closing said cavity.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) The device of claim [4] 1, further including a third biasing member being attached to said engaging arm for biasing said actuator upwardly away from said piston.

6. (currently amended) The device of claim [4] 1, wherein said first end of said base has a template receiving slot therein and traversing said aperture and said device further includes a plurality of template and punch member paired combinations, each of said templates comprising a panel having an opening extending therethrough, each of said templates being selectively positionable into said template receiving slot such that said opening is aligned with said aperture, each of said openings having a different shape, each of said punch members being selectively coupled to said piston and having a shape adapted for creating a punch having the shape of the opening of a paired one of said templates.

7. (original) The device of claim 6, wherein each of said punch members includes a female coupler and a cutting member, each of said female couplers being selectively coupled to said lower portion of said piston, each of said cutting members having a shape substantially identical to the shape of one of said openings.

Claims 8 and 9 (cancelled)

10. (original) A hole punching device for selectively punching holes through a paper material, said device comprising:

an elongate base having a first end, a second end, a first side edge, a second side edge, a top side and a bottom side, a compartment being positioned within said base, said compartment extending toward said first end, said top side having an aperture extending therethrough and into said compartment, said aperture being positioned generally adjacent to said first end, a proximate portion of said bottom side with respect to said first end defining a door for selectively opening or closing said compartment, said base having a length from said first end to said second end greater than nine inches, said first end having a template receiving slot therein and traversing said aperture;

an engaging arm being elongated and having rearward end and a forward end, said rearward end being pivotally coupled to said top side of said base and positioned adjacent to said second end such that said engaging arm extends over said aperture, said engaging arm having a cavity therein positioned between said rearward and forward ends, a covering being selectively positioned over said cavity for opening or closing said cavity;

a piston extending through and being movably mounted in said engaging arm, said piston including an upper portion extending upwardly from said engaging arm and a lower portion extending downwardly from said engaging arm, said piston being positioned such that said piston may selectively extend through said aperture;

a first biasing member being coupled to said piston for biasing said lower portion upwardly away from said base;

a second biasing member being coupled to said engaging arm for biasing said forward end of said engaging arm upwardly away from said base;

an actuator for selectively moving said lower portion of said piston downward and into said aperture being attached to said engaging arm, said actuator comprising a lever pivotally coupled to said engaging arm and extending over said upper portion of said piston, said lever having a free end

extending generally toward said rearward end of said engaging arm,  
wherein said lower portion is moved into said aperture when said free end  
is selectively moved toward an upper surface of the engaging arm;  
a third biasing member being attached to said engaging arm for biasing said  
5 actuator upwardly away from said piston; and  
a plurality of template and punch member paired combinations, each of said  
templates comprising a panel having an opening extending therethrough,  
each of said templates being selectively positionable into said template  
receiving slot such that said opening is aligned with said aperture, each of  
10 said openings having a different shape, each of said punch members  
including a female coupler and a cutting member, each of said female  
couplers being selectively coupled to said lower portion of said piston,  
each of said cutting members having a size and shape substantially  
identical to the shape of one of said openings.

11. (new) A hole punching device for selectively punching holes through a  
paper material, said device comprising:

an elongate base having a first end, a second end, a first side edge, a second side  
edge, a top side and a bottom side, a compartment being positioned within  
20 said base, said top side having an aperture extending therethrough and into  
said compartment, said aperture being positioned generally adjacent to  
said first end, said base having a length from said first end to said second  
end greater than nine inches, said first end of said base having a template  
receiving slot therein and traversing said aperture;

25 an engaging arm being elongated and having rearward end and a forward end,  
said rearward end being pivotally coupled to said top side of said base and  
positioned adjacent to said second end such that said engaging arm  
extends over said aperture;

30 a piston extending through and being movably mounted in said engaging arm,  
said piston including an upper portion extending upwardly from said  
engaging arm and a lower portion extending downwardly from said

engaging arm, said piston being positioned such that said piston may selectively extend through said aperture;

a first biasing member being coupled to said piston for biasing said lower portion upwardly away from said base;

5 a second biasing member being coupled to said engaging arm for biasing said forward end of said engaging arm upwardly away from said base;

an actuator for selectively moving said lower portion of said piston downward and into said aperture being attached to said engaging arm; and

a plurality of template and punch member paired combinations, each of said  
10 templates comprising a panel having an opening extending therethrough, each of said templates being selectively positionable into said template receiving slot such that said opening is aligned with said aperture, each of said openings having a different shape, each of said punch members being selectively coupled to said piston and having a shape adapted for creating  
15 a punch having the shape of the opening of a paired one of said templates

12. (new) The device of claim 11, wherein each of said punch members includes a female coupler and a cutting member, each of said female couplers being selectively coupled to said lower portion of said piston, each of said cutting members  
20 having a shape substantially identical to the shape of one of said openings.